

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LETCHER COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCH- ING BAND

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the director and members of the Letcher County Central High School marching band, who have received the honor of performing in Washington, DC, for the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade on January 21, 2013. This talented group of students should be proud of this remarkable achievement and I am honored to recognize their success.

Competing with more than 2,800 applicants to perform during the parade following President Barack Obama's inauguration, Letcher County Central marching band was one of merely 24 groups chosen for this prestigious honor. After weeks of hard work, fundraising, and practicing in the cold, the band members will serve as the only representative from Kentucky to march in the Presidential Inauguration Parade this year. The band will also be joined by the school's ROTC Cadet Honor Guard performing a "Patriotic Parade Sequence," a medley of American songs, after President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden are sworn into office. The marching band was also invited to perform at the Kentucky Society of Washington DC's Inaugural Ball on January 19, 2013.

Contrary to their current success, the Letcher County Central High School music program has not always had a strong presence on campus. In fact, in 2006, the instrumental music program at Letcher County Central High School did not exist. However, with the help of Dr. Jason Griffith, Director of the LCCHS marching band, and several VH1 Save the Music Grants, the program has grown from 50 kids to approximately 400 kids in just six years. Today, the band has received numerous awards such as a Kennedy Center Honorable Mention, and has participated in prominent parades such as the Gubernatorial Parades in Kentucky in 2007 and 2011 and a special parade at Disney World in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Band Director Jason Griffith and the Letcher County Central High School Marching Band. This band has made Kentucky proud, and I wish them all the best as they take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity and become forever apart of our nation's history.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COLONEL JAMES L. HILL, SR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 18, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Colonel James L. Hill, Sr. Colonel Hill was a native Northwest Floridian who served his nation with honor and distinction, while also working tirelessly as an educator and leader in his community.

Colonel Hill was born in the small town of Lakewood in Walton County, Florida on February 1, 1925. Colonel Hill attended public schools in Walton County, before graduating from Tivoli High School in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. After his high school career, Colonel Hill began his studies at Florida A&M University.

Colonel Hill put his studies on hold, however, to answer the call of duty during World War II. Colonel Hill entered the United States Army as a Private, serving bravely in the European Theater. After the war ended, Colonel Hill returned to his studies at Florida A&M University; however, he decided to remain in the Army Reserve to continue serving his nation.

After graduating from Florida A&M, Colonel Hill married his college sweetheart, Jounice, and together they accepted positions at Carver Junior High School in Florala, Alabama. Colonel Hill was working as the Principal of Carver Junior High, when he was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. Colonel Hill was ready to answer his nation's call, and he again served with honor and distinction with the 45th Combat Infantry.

Colonel Hill finished his tour in Korea and returned to Northwest Florida to continue his career in education. He took a position as the Principal of Drew Elementary School in Baker, Florida. His successful tenure at Drew was the beginning of an exemplary career that saw Colonel Hill serve as a principal at four different schools in Okaloosa County, Florida including 26 years at Florosa Elementary School.

While serving in the Army Reserve and as a school principal, Colonel Hill also continued his education receiving both a master's and doctorate degree in education. Colonel Hill also excelled in his reserve service, and in 1975, after completing Command and General Staff College, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. Colonel Hill continued to serve in the Army Reserve until his retirement in 1981. In 1994, Colonel Hill retired from the Okaloosa County School District after having worked as a teacher and principal for nearly 40 years, and his excellent service to the State of Florida was recognized with a gubernatorial proclamation from Governor Lawton Chiles.

Outside of his outstanding leadership as an educator and a member of our Armed Forces, Colonel Hill was also a true leader in the

Northwest Florida community. Colonel Hill served as President of the Community Action Program in Fort Walton Beach, as well as Vice President of the Fort Walton Beach Civic League. He was also a longtime member of the Okaloosa County NAACP, and in 2009 he was recognized as the Okaloosa County Branch NAACP Centennial Celebration Legacy Honoree. Colonel Hill's outstanding achievements and legacy were also recorded for posterity in his autobiography *Sawmill, A Family Affair*, which won the Palm Beach County African Diaspora Award.

To some, Colonel James Hill will be remembered as a patriot, who answered the call of duty on numerous occasions with honor, distinction and bravery. To others, he will be remembered as a committed educator and a leader in civic society. To his family, Colonel Hill will always be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, and proud grandfather. His contributions to our nation and his community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of Colonel James L. Hill, Sr. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to Colonel Hill's wife, Jounice, his children, grandchildren and the entire Hill family.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 152, DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, colleague and fellow New Yorker for yielding time. I'd also like to thank Representatives LOWEY and KING for their leadership; and I commend my colleagues in the New York and New Jersey delegations on both sides of the aisle for working so well together to advance the interests of our states at this critical time. I rise to support the rule and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 152, and the Frelinghuysen Amendment, and to oppose the Mulvaney Amendment.

It has been two-and-a-half months since Superstorm Sandy hit communities in New York, New Jersey, and neighboring states which continue to face the almost insurmountable task of cleaning up and rebuilding homes, businesses, and lives. I'm grateful we finally have the opportunity to consider a relief package to help those who are most in need.

On the eastern half of Long Island, businesses, farms, and homes fell victim to intense flooding; ferocious winds caused substantial damage to property, vehicles, and businesses; and along the coast, Sandy created breaches in the coastline and severely eroded other beaches. In New York and New Jersey, at least 651,000 homes were damaged or destroyed and approximately 463,000 businesses were impacted.

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